THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.

[English]

International Airport at Nadargul

3079. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed International Airport at Nadargul, 25 kilometers from the city of Hyderabad has been withdrawn in view of the refusal of the Defence Authorities to alienate the land at Hakimpet where it was initially proposed;

(b) whether the State Government was not ready for an alternative site;

(c) whether the State Government has now decided to search for an alternative site in case the Defence authorities refused to provide the land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the International Airport will be coming up in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan to construct an airport at Nadirgul near Hyderabad. At present, there are limited international operations at Hyderabad and the existing airport is sufficient to meet the demand of the international traffic.

Steps to make Indian Airlines Profitable

3080. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take effective steps to make the Indian Airlines a profitable institution as it had been incurring huge losses in the past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The steps taken/ proposed to be taken by Indian Airlines to reduce its losses are as under :

(i) Increase in productivity of Pilots and Engineers after introduction of Productivity Linked Incentive Schemes.

(ii) Increase in international operations directly as well as in alliance with Air India and opening of new destinations and new links.

(iii) Rationalisation of routes.

(iv) Setting up of independent profit centres.

(v) Improvement in quality of service.

(vi) Dissemination of information about the strength of the Company.

(vii) Implementation of the long-term Turn Around Strategy suggested by the Committee of experts headed by Dr. Kelkar, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(viii) Broad-basing of capital structure.

(ix) Minimising the non-operational capital expenditure wherever feasible.

Damage to Fatehpur Sikri

3081. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the newsitem captioned "Use of explosives for sandstone quarrying destroys monuments. ASI watches silently, Dont's cry just for Taj, Fatehpur Sikri is dying" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated July 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the reasons for the failure of the Archaeological survery of India (ASI) to check this irreparable damage to the historic monuments at Fatehpur Sikri ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. No specific damage to Centrally protected monuments has been

established as a result of explosives used for sandstone quarrying.

(b) to (d) Archaeological Survey of India has brought to the notice of the concerned authorities in the State to take necessary measures to stop quarrying in the vicinity of Centrally protected monuments. Relevant Notifications in this regard have been brought to the notice of the State Governments.

Unauthorised Gas Connections

3082. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Vigilance Department of Andhra Pradesh have unearthed an inter-state racket involved in the business of unauthorised gas connection with the connivance of the LPG dealers of Government Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the total number of people involved in such rackets;

(c) the action taken against those who are the LPG dealers for Government Oil Companies;

(d) whether it has been reported that there has been large scale involvement of officials from the Oil companies for supply of gas connections unauthorisedly;

(e) if so, whether these gas connections have been regularised; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) During the first week of June, 1997, Vigilance Cell of Civil Supplies Department, Andhra Pradesh had raided and arrested some persons at Vijayawada for alleged involvement in procuring forged/fake TVs of IOC/HPC/BPC. The forged/duplicate printing blocks for TVs of IOC/BPC/HPC along with rubber stamps of LPG distributorships of IOC/BPC/HPC were also confiscated. On further investigations, Vigilance had raided 23 distributorships in the State of Andhra Pradesh and suspended 12 distributorships who could have honoured such forged/fake TVs. On the basis of prima facie evidence, the authorities arrested nine managers of LPG distributorships. The officials of Andhra Pradesh advised State level coordinator of Andhra Pradesh to verify the details of termination vouchers which were alleged to be fake and supposed to be honoured by the distributors. The Civil Supplies officials of Andhra Pradesh have given time upto 15th August, 1997. Based on the verification of the details of the alleged fake termination voucher, further action is to be taken as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines. There is no report of involvement of the officers of IOC, HPC and BPC in the supply of gas connection unauthorisedly, so far.

SCs/STs In ITDC

3083. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been a huge shortfall in all the reserve categories of posts for the SCs/STs in the ITDC Ltd.;

(b) if so, the vacancies remained unfilled till the end of the recruitment year 1996;

(c) the efforts made to wipe out the backlog vacancies;

(d) whether the ITDC has conducted special recruitment drive; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The categorywise details of reserved posts remaining unfilled at the end of recruitment year 1996 are given as under :

Group of posts	Shortfall at the end of recruitment year 1996	
	SC	ST
A	38	25
C	08	65
D	–	07
Total :	46	97

(c) to (e) With a view to filling up backlog of reserved, posts, a special recruitment drive exclusively for SCs/STs has been made by releasing advertisement in news-papers/ notification to Employment Exchange for 24 posts(13 SCs and 11 STs) in Group A and 32 posts (09 SCs and 23 STs) in Group C and D. In addition an advertisement for five posts (02 SCs and 03 STs) in Group A has also been released alongwith general candidates. The recruitment action is in progress.

[Translation]

Sardar Sarovar Award

3084. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the